Chapter 1. QURAN PASSAGES

Allah in Himself

According to Muslims belief system, Allah's **Essence/person** is beyond human perception and capacity of knowledge that's why His unique attributes are mentioned in the Quran to introduce Allah. 99 attributes of Allah are mentioned in deferent Quranic passages.

Following are some of the attributes which are mentioned in any of the given passages in CAIE syllabus:

- **The Originator and Creator**
- **The Omnipotent**
- **The Omniscient**
- **The Omnipresent**
- **The Eternal**
- **The Absolute**
- **The Self-Subsisting**
- **The Unique**
- **The Lord and Master**
- **The Sustainer**
- **The Provider**
- **The Cherisher**
- **The Guide and Teacher**
- **The Protector**
- **The Helper**
- **The Merciful**
- **The Forgiving**
- **The Sublime Nature of God and other attributes**

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Passage no. 1

Al-Baqarah 2: 225 (Ayat al-Kursi)

Translation of the Passage

Allah! There is no deity but He (none has the right to be worshipped but He), the Ever living, the One Who sustains and protects all, neither over takes Him slumber nor sleep, To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth, who is there that could intercede with Him except by His Own permission. He knows all what is in front of them and also what is hidden from them and they cannot comprehend anything of His knowledge except what He wills. His kingdom extends over the heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding them both, and He is the most High and the most Great.

Main Theme of the passage and its Explanation

The main Theme of this long passage is God himself. It explains the most important article of the faith of Islamic belief system, "Tauheed" (declaration of oneness of God) and then elaborates various aspects of the Unity of God which make Him Matchless and Unique both in **His Essence** (Person) and **Attributes.** Quran explains the fact that "the Essence" of God is beyond human perception that's why His unique and matchless **"Attributes and Qualities** are mentioned to introduce God.

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It is stated in the Quran: ***No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision: He is above all comprehension, yet is acquainted with all things.*** (6:103)

- This passage explains that Allah is One, the Absolute and the Eternal. No one else shares any of His attributes and Authority with Him. He is **the Ever Living, the Self-Subsisting** and **the Absolute** Lord who is free from all weaknesses and limitations. Allah says in the Quran:
  "Say: He is Allah, the One and the Only. Allah, the Eternal, the Absolute. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And there is none like Him." (112: 1-4).
- He is The Ever Living and The Sustainer, The Self-Subsisting hence all creations are dependent on Him, but He is independent.
- He is Omnipotent, All Powerful, the Supreme and the Mightiest, who created this universe comprising of billions of galaxies, stars and planets just by saying "BE" and it became. Being the Sovereign Lord of the Universe, He administers it single-handedly, without the assistance of anyone else or interference from any quarter. All what is there in the universe belongs to Him alone and to no one else.
- Allah Almighty is the Omniscient. His knowledge in all manifestations and dimensions is absolute, perfect and complete, all-encompassing and all-embracing. He knows the hidden and the manifest, past and present and also what lies ahead, to the minutest possible details.
- No one has the power to intercede with Allah on someone's behalf, not even the most powerful of prophets, unless one is permitted by Him to do so. He alone maintains and sustains heavens and earth and everything contained therein, and while doing so, He neither requires rest nor He

ever tires or feels fatigued. Everything in the universe is His kingdom and under His power and authority.

- He has perfect knowledge of each and everything of all times so He is **the Omniscient**. His knowledge is limitless, and humans only know what He allows them. He is not dependent on anyone for his survival and enjoys autonomy in exercising His authority that's why He is **the Absolute** and **the Eternal**. He does not have human qualities so does not sleep or get tired in what He does.
- In this passage God is mentioned as **the Omnipotent Lord,** whose authority and rule encompass the entire universe. His throne is understood as His majesty, uniqueness, knowledge and having total power. It emphasises how He is the only one who can make decisions about His creation yet is transcendent – completely independent from His creation

Importance of this theme for Muslims

- The importance of these themes is that these verses allow Muslims to learn and understand something about God in a way relevant to them.
- This passage tells Muslims to believe in Tawhid in terms of God's uniqueness, majesty and glory.
- The theme is important for Muslims as it crystallizes the belief of Tawhid and trains them to condemn shirk like paganism and the doctrine of Trinity etc.
- It also opposes the stand of the atheists who maintain that this universe came into being as a result of some accident and would continue to function in a mechanical manner till it completes its circle of life and dissolves into oblivion.
- There is repetitive mention of God's authority, unlimited knowledge and powers in order to strengthen the faith of its readers.
- A Muslim must realize that he is the trustee of power and knowledge on Earth. His power and knowledge is a blessing of Allah which must be used productively for the well-being of humanity.
- The theme of God's self-subsistence shows how certain attributes that affect humans do not affect Him, for example, sleep, so human beings rely entirely on Him for their survival and existence.
- A believer must realize that only Allah is the Absolute, the Self-subsisting and Independent. They should realize their weaknesses and should never be proud of their worldly power and knowledge. Directors, managers, ministers and officials etcetera must realize their responsibilities and consider them in service of humanity as a trust given by Allah. Humans are vicegerents on Earth. They are given limited power, authority and knowledge to test their behavior. They are supposed to use their knowledge and power for the wellbeing of humanity and other creations of Allah.
- This passage reminds Muslims that God alone is to be worshipped and no authority can be compared with him by any means. A Muslim always trusts in Allah and does not come in pressure of any worldly authority while expressing the truth. He becomes fearless as he believes that Allah is the only Protector. Muslims seek Allah's protection by reciting this passage. Many Muslims also recite this verse regularly to reiterate God's power and high position as compared to any worldly authority.
- A Muslim must realize his weaknesses and mistakes and repent for his sins instead of insolence and proud. He should be thankful to Allah for His countless blessings, verbally in form of worships and practically by sharing Allah's blessings with others and making a positive contribution for the well-being of society.
- Allah has the knowledge and power over all things, and this could make Muslims more cautious of their practices. Realization of Allah's Omnipotence and Omniscience makes a believer Self

accountable for his deeds and actions and he tries his level best to shun all vices and secrets openly or secretly. He realizes that Allah knows the hidden and manifest. He knows all our actions, thoughts, and secrets of our hearts. A believer must seek beneficial knowledge from Allah and should never be proud of his knowledge. He must be humble and scarify for others.

- Belief in "Tauheed" makes a believer virtuous, upright, obedient, brave and courageous. He becomes free from jealousy, envy, and greed. He refrains from adopting unfair means to achieve success.
- Muslims often recite this passage daily for protection.

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